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## PREFACE

We have come to understand the importance of preserving the quality of our environment while promoting technological advancement and economic prosperity. The need to carefully and fairly evaluate public actions relative to the quality of our environment was initially recognized with the passage of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). Since then, other substantive laws have echoed this message, including the Oil Pollution Act of 1990.

NEPA is the first comprehensive, systematic, and open procedural planning process for actions to be taken by Federal government agencies. Evaluation pervades the NEPA planning process. This planning process includes identifying a proposed action and alternatives to the proposed action and assessing the environmental consequences of the proposed action and the alternatives in light of public involvement. NEPA's judicial history, its incorporation into other substantive Federal laws and regulations, and general adoption by various State governments in one form or another makes this planning process credible.

NEPA has been integrated into the final Natural Resource Damage Assessment (NRDA) regulations developed under the Oil Pollution Act of 1990 (OPA). Although NEPA is solely a Federal trustee requirement, the analyses and determinations required under the NRDA regulations of OPA are structured to fully facilitate the ability for all agencies to consider the environmental consequences of their proposed restoration actions.

This document focuses on restoration planning for RDAs under OPA, as outlined in the NRDA regulations under OPA. In following the restoration planning process in the NRDA regulations under OPA and the guidance developed in this document, trustees will also ensure consistency with NEPA.

## **LIST OF ACRONYMS**

CEQ	Council on Environmental Quality
CERCLA	Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980, as amended
DEIS	Draft Environmental Impact Statement
DRP	Draft Restoration Plan
EA	Environmental Assessment
EIS	Environmental Impact Statement
FEIS	Draft Environmental Impact Statement
FONSI	Finding of No Significant Impact
FRP	Final Restoration Plan
LAT	Lead Administrative Trustee
NEPA	National Environmental Policy Act
NOA	Notice of Availability
NOAA	National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NOI	Notice of Intent
NRDA	Natural Resource Damage Assessment
OPA	Oil Pollution Act of 1990
ROD	Record of Decision
RP	Responsible Party
SEPA	State Environmental Policy Act